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Administration of George Bush, 1990 / Aug. 2

The President. Well, I would not discuss movement of any U.S. forces. And what was the second part of your question?

Q. Have you heard from Saudi Arabia?

The President. No, but I have a call to King Fahd, and I was supposed to have taken that call before now, but it's been delayed by a few minutes. And so, I hope before I leave here I will talk to him. I think it is very important I do talk to him. And I'd leave it there.

Q. What do you expect him to say?

The President. Well, that's too hypothetical, too. I know he'll be expressing the same kind of concern that we feel.

Q. Prime Minister, if I could, the President's Executive order this morning established a U.S. embargo on trade with Iraq. When you mentioned chapter VII measures, would you support in the Security Council a call for an international embargo on Iraqi oil?

The Prime Minister. We are prepared to support in the Security Council those measures which collectively we can agree to and which collectively we can make effective. Those are the two tests. We have already frozen all Kuwaiti assets. Kuwaitis have very considerable assets, and it's important that those do not fall into Iraqi hands. Iraq, we believe, has only very, very small assets and rather a lot of debts, so the position is rather different with her.

Note: The question-and-answer session began at 2:10 p.m. outside of the residence of Henry Catto, U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Memorandum on the Withholding of Assistance to Iraq

August 2, 1990

Memorandum for Heads of All Departments and Agencies

Subject: Withholding of Assistance to Iraq

Effective immediately, you are instructed not to provide any form of assistance to Iraq, including, but not limited to, financial

assistance, loan guarantees, and export licenses.

George Bush

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Telephone Conversation With King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia August 2, 1990

President Bush and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia discussed the Iraq attack on Kuwait in a telephone call at approximately 4:45 p.m. MDT. The two leaders spoke for nearly one-half hour. They agreed that the attack on Kuwait was absolutely unacceptable, and they discussed possible options for dealing with the situation. President Bush described the conversations he had earlier in the day with other Arab leaders and with Prime Minister Thatcher [of the United Kingdom]. The President emphasized the United States demand for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan August 2, 1990

Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services, is an outstanding Cabinet officer who has forcefully and effectively spoken out for the public's health and welfare. His courage is exemplary. President Bush and Chief of Staff Sununu commend his work on behalf of health and social issues, including his leadership for civil rights. He is a role model for black and white youth in America who aspire to high achievement.

Congressman Fortney Stark's bigoted assault on the integrity and ability of Secretary Sullivan is an affront to the Congress and the Democratic Party. We trust the Democratic Party and its chairman, Ron Brown, will disassociate themselves from Congressman Stark's ill-tempered and shameful remarks.